
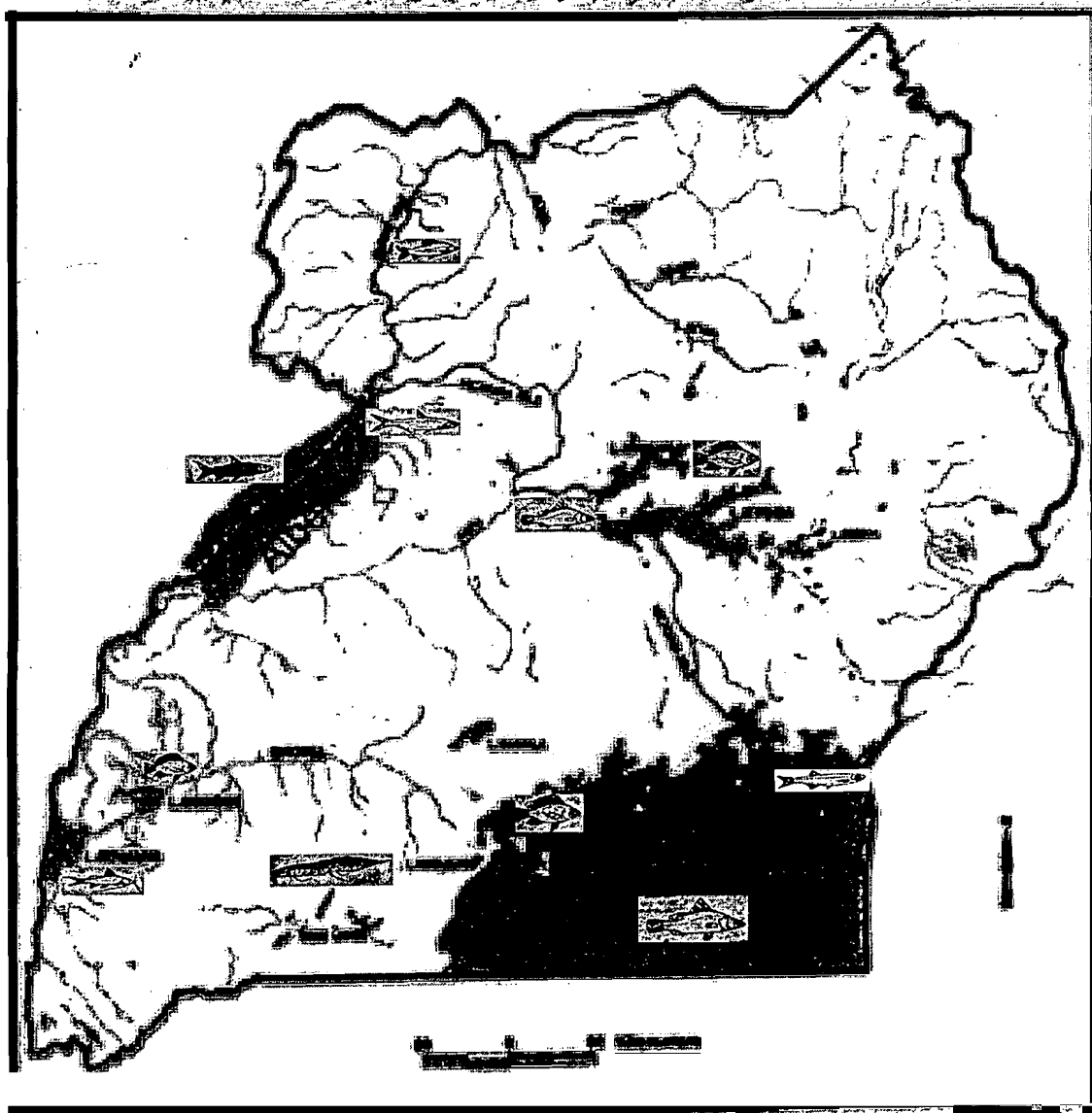


Enhancing Knowledge Base for Sustainable . Management of Fisheries Resources of the Victoria

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LVEMP

Workshop Report (Part 1)

Fisheries Resources Research Institute - FIRRI, JINJA

(5TH - 7TH September 2001)

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ACRONYMS

ARDC	Agricultural Research Development Centre
BMU	Beach Management Unit
CAD	Chief Administrative Officer
CPUE	Catch Per <i>Unit</i> Effort
DFID	Department For International Development
DFO	District Fisheries Officer
EJAU	Environmental Journalists' Association of Uganda
EU	European Union
FIRRI	Fisheries Resources Research Institute
FRO	Fisheries Resources Department
FTI	Fisheries Training Institute
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IUU	Illegal Unregulated Unreported
KMFRI	Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute
LT	Laboratory Technician
LVEMP	Lake Victoria Environment Management Project
LVFRP	Lake Victoria Fisheries Research Project
LVR	Lake Victoria Region
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MDF	Masese Development Foundation
MTP	Medium Term Plan
MUK	Makerere University Kampala
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
NARO	National Agricultural Research Organisation
NAROSEC	National Agricultural Research Organisation Secretariat
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NGO	Non Government Organisation
P	Phosphorous
PMA	Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PRO	Principal Research Officer
RA	Research Assistant
RO	Research Officer
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Scientists
SRO	Senior Research Officer
TAFRI	Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute
UFFCA	Uganda Fisheries and Fish Conservation Association
UFPEA	Uganda Fish Processors and Exporters Association
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UTV	Uganda Television
WBS	Wavah Broadcasting Station
WHO	World Health Organisation

Workshop Objectives

The objective of the workshop was to initiate a process of empowering stakeholders of the Lake *Victoria* Basin with the knowledge to: _

- Sustainably exploit the fisheries,
- Provide an understanding of the lake productivity processes, which drive fish production,
- Conserve aquatic biodiversity upon which future production depends,
- Protect the aquatic environment in which the fish live,
- Maximise economic benefits from the fisheries and
- Promote co-management.

Workshop outputs

The main outputs from this workshop were a set of recommendations and plan of actions intended to address major issues so as to improve the management of the lake resources and the livelihoods in communities dependent on these resources.

Workshop organisation

The workshop lasted three days involving a series of presentations, plenary and group discussions. The presentations made are shown in annex I.

Workshop participants were divided into groups to discuss agreed issues. The groups were divided into six categories based on representation from the fisher folks, *District* Fisheries Officers, Chief Administrative Officers, Journalists and the Others (Le. NGOs, Collaborators, etc) to discuss and make recommendations regarding each day's presentations.

Workshop opening

The Minister of State for Fisheries, Dr. Fabius Byaruhanga, opened the workshop. The Commissioner for Fisheries, Mr. Dick Nyeko, read his speech. The following are a report of the remarks made at the opening of the workshop.

Opening remarks [Chairman workshop organising committee, Mr. Jonna Kamanyi]

Mr. Jonna Kamanyi welcomed the participants and all those present. He was happy that the stakeholders had turned up for the workshop an indication of their interest in the management of the Victoria Basin Lakes. He wished the participants a happy stay at the Institute and good deliberations.

Opening remarks {Director **FIRRI**, Dr. R. Ogutu-Ohwayo}

workshop, Dr. Richard Ogutu-Ohwayo welcomed the participants to the

He took the opportunity to introduce FIRRI to the participants and what it is currently involved in. The participants were informed that FIRRI is specifically charged with research in fisheries and the aquatic environment. Its mandate areas include capture fisheries, fishing technology, fish production systems, aquatic environmental health, aquaculture and post harvest processes.

The participants were *informed* that fisheries are currently very important in the National economy and contribute to the National development policy of poverty eradication through providing food, employment, income and export earnings. The Director told the participants that Uganda has a high fish production potential since lakes, rivers and streams cover up to 18% of the country. He further stated that the current fishery production is estimated at 250,000m.t. annually but tapping the vast aquaculture potential, which is still poorly developed could increase the production from the current levels.

He noted that the constraints that have been identified as affecting the capture fisheries include; declining catches and fish species diversity, degradation of the fish habitats, over fishing, inadequate information on fish stocks and fish species diversity, inadequate knowledge on lake productivity processes, pollution and degradation of the fish habitats including wetlands, *invasion* by water hyacinth and other weeds, inadequate investment skills among fishers, limited community involvement in management of fisheries, inadequate information dissemination and limited application of results.

The Director further gave the constraints to increased aquaculture production which included; inadequate quality of fish fry, lack of appropriate feeds, limited variety of cultured fish species, fish stunting, low pond productivity, pests, parasites and diseases, inadequate information on economic viability of aquaculture, inadequate dissemination information and limited application of available technologies.

The participants were informed about the specific functions that have been developed by NARO to overcome the above constraints and these are:

Generating, Packaging and disseminating scientific knowledge, building capacity and managing research to guide: Sustainable management of fish stocks; Conservation of aquatic biodiversity; Integrating lake productivity processes into fisheries management; Prevention of pollution and eutrophication of the aquatic environment; Control of invasive weeds especially water hyacinth; Enhancement of Aquaculture production; Reduction of post-harvest fish losses and ensuring fish quality and safety; Development of options for optimisation of socio-economic benefits from fisheries and for co-management; Development of policies, laws and regulations for management of fisheries and the aquatic environment.

The Director reported that NARO had just completed drawing up a Medium Term Plan. (MTP), which will be implemented in line with the Plan for

Modernisation of Agriculture (PMA) and in as
 Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) Under Association with the National
 FIRRI will be to contribute to natural the PMA, the focus being
 RRI will be to contribute to natural the PMA, the focus being
 increasing fish production to overcome poverty.

The Director further informed the participants that under the NARO MTP, FIRRI will be implementing two projects to address the constraints mentioned. One project which focuses on capture fisheries will target "Management of fish stocks, biodiversity and environment of aquatic systems". The second project focuses on aquaculture and will target "Enhancing of fish farming through improved production and feeding".

The participants were enlightened about the FIRRI vision of having fisheries to increase and sustain fish production and communities with information. In order to fulfil this objective, the participants were told that FIRRI is developing an elaborate information and database centre.

The Director thanked H. E. the President for the recognition and personal interest in fisheries, which have been manifested by appointing a Minister specifically in charge of fisheries. He also thanked FIRRI development partners notably IDRC, EU and LVFRP for the support, which has enabled FIRRI to collect the information that would be shared at the workshop. He thanked the participants for finding time to come and attend the workshop and urged them to co-operate to ensure that there is increased and sustainable fish production and a healthy fish habitat to serve the current and future generations.

Remarks by EU-LVFRP Project Co-ordinator, Mr. Martin van der Knaap

Mr. Martin van der Knaap commended FIRRI for organising the workshop. He noted that this was a sign of interest for the lake and its management.

The Project Co-ordinator narrated the history of the EU Project, Lake Victoria Fisheries Research Project (LVFRP), to the participants. It was in 1984 when the three East African countries expressed an interest in managing the fisheries resources of the lake. The participants were informed that unfortunately, the political will at the time was not sufficiently developed to discuss the problems of the lake. It was not until 1989 when the first phase of the LVFRP was implemented. The first phase of the project was meant to last only one year and a half. Unfortunately, the first phase took eight years and that explains why this workshop is being held in 2001 instead of 1996.

Mr. Martin van der Knaap commended the three East African Institutions of FIRRI, KEMFRI and TAFIRI for a job well done. He informed the participants that the project is here to facilitate the three Research Institutions as well as the fisheries departments of the three countries.

Participants were informed that during a conference in 1992 held in Jinja there were that the lake was in danger and was likely to die out. years later, LVFRP has tried to find some results on the resource and has been doing this for the last four years. LVFRP concentrated on, among others bottom trawl surveys, in the three countries at the same time gill netting experiments on a monthly basis and hydro caustic surveys on a half yearly basis. He reported that the research vessel based in Tanzania is currently in the middle of the Victoria probably in Uganda waters surveying the resources of the lake.

The LVFRP Co-ordinator further reported that on top of the above co-management was studied. He noted that managing the lake should not fully depend on the fisheries department but on other stakeholders as well. He noted that LVFRP identified a number of stakeholders that may be involved in managing the resources of the lake and these included among others, the fishing communities, the fish processors, the city councils and the pastoralists.

The Project Co-ordinator remarked that co-management is very exciting and the LVFRP had come up with a number of interesting findings during their studies. Local management at different beaches in the three East African countries is so different. He informed the participants that all the data collected by the project would be put in a database and this will be ready in a few weeks time. It will include the final results of the survey.

It was made clear that the three research institutes and the fisheries departments in the three countries will continue monitoring the lake even after the end of the project. He commended the researchers in the three countries for dedicatedly working for four years and coming up with tremendous progress.

The Project Co-ordinator informed the participants that the project is in the process of finalising the fisheries management plan, which will form the basis hopefully for new intervention by the EU. He hoped that FIRRI and the Fisheries Resources Department are ready to implement it together.

The Project Co-ordinator observed that the three countries had shown their willingness to co-operate. He hoped that in the future they would continue to co-operate in the same way. He further noted that the project is almost at its end and in November there will be a workshop to present the final findings of the project. This workshop will not be very scientific but will be fit for policy makers as well. He reported that this is the beginning of a series of conferences presenting the fruits of the project work during the last five years. He wished the participants good listening and good deliberations.

Remarks [Director General, NARO]

Dr. C. Tizikara represented the NARO Director General. He delivered his apologies for not attending the workshop.

Workshop participants were informed that during the past year, NARO had gone through a consultation exercise and planning. In May this year, a strategic plan for the next ten years that spells out the principles under which NARO is going to respond to stakeholders and to challenges in the modernisation of Agriculture as spelt out by Government was set up. NARO came up with a Medium Term Plan (MTP), which spells out the priority areas that NARO will try to solve in the next five years, 2001 - 2005.

The representative of the Director General reminded the participants that the theme for the workshop is *"Enhancing knowledge base for sustainable development and management of the fisheries resources of the Victoria Basin Lakes"* is a commitment that has been made by FIRRI. He therefore urged all stakeholders to keep monitoring and evaluating FIRRI or NARO in order to make sure that they are fulfilling the commitment. He observed that FIRRI has offered itself as a service provider and it is therefore the responsibility of the stakeholders to demand for the required services from FIRRI.

Dr. Tizikara noted that during the workshop, the researchers would be presenting some of the results obtained over the past year. He therefore requested the participants to put the presenters to task to find out what is not clear to them.

He thanked FIRRI for its efforts of providing information to stakeholders and then invited the Commissioner to address the participants.

Remarks [Commissioner Fisheries Resources Department, Mr. Dick Nyeko]

The Fisheries Resources Department Commissioner, Mr. Dick Nyeko, welcomed the participants to the workshop. He informed the participants that his remit is the policy direction that Uganda fisheries should take. He observed that Uganda has a comparative advantage to excel in fresh water fish production in the world. He also made it known to the participants that currently, Uganda is the eighth in inland fishing power in the world with an estimated 280,000 metric tonnes per annum.

The Commissioner further reported that there are 167 lakes in Uganda, a network of small streams that join to form small rivers which join further forming bigger rivers that flow into our aquatic ecosystems. He noted that all these have the capacity to support fish life and have a lot of energy that has not been appropriately exploited.

Commissioner observed that in the last fifteen years, Government's major intervention has been in social services provision where a lot of resources have been channelled. The participants were informed that there is need to sustain the fisheries so that they can support the increasing Ugandan population since it has the potential of propelling this country forward.

The Commissioner thanked the EU Project for being able to provide data that has enabled the realisation of the disparities in resource exploitation in the

region during the past five years. He noted that the *acoustic* data and trawl data explained by the Project Co-ordinator show clearly that Uganda waters are very rich. He stated that this data is to be used appropriately to evaluate the policy direction the country is going to take. He informed the participants that by the year 2005, Uganda fish production will have increased if Monitoring, Control and Surveillance are strengthened.

The Commissioner *clarified* that the current cries of a fishing ban in the media papers by Kenyan fisher folks is not actually a ban as reported. He informed the participants that after thirty years, Uganda has been able to *enforce* the regulations with its National waters. This means that non-citizens will respect the Ugandan laws and acquire appropriate permits where necessary.

The Commissioner *felt* that by the year 2005, Uganda could achieve an export target of 70,000 metric tonnes through stock enhancement and aggressive marketing promotions. He gave examples of exportable items like the Nile Perch air bladder, off cuts and ornamental fish, which Uganda has not yet started exporting. He urged the participants to explore such areas in order to increase their income levels.

He also reported that the Fisheries Resources Department is strengthening the capacity for fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance to curb illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IUU fishing). He told the participants that CCRF, a method of managing fisheries, is an international framework adopted by all countries to manage fisheries responsibly and all states in Africa have adopted it by acclamation. He therefore informed the participants that an MCS capability for Uganda should not be seen as a ban but an enforcement of already enacted laws.

Opening remarks [Minister of State for Fisheries, read by the Commissioner, Fisheries Resources Department]

The Commissioner for Fisheries, read the speech of the Minister of State for Fisheries. The Minister was delighted to have been invited to the workshop to discuss development and management of the fisheries of the Victoria Basin Lakes.

The Minister informed the participants that the Uganda government has drawn up a plan for eradication of poverty. He told them that the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries has been identified as being of primary importance in the poverty eradication plan because the largest proportion of the Uganda population (about 80%), depend on agriculture for their livelihood. They were notified that MAAIF has developed a Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture (PMA) as an avenue for eradicating poverty ensuring food supply at adequate nutritional levels, increasing and diversifying export commodities. providing raw materials for agro-based industries and for export and creating employment. It was also disclosed that Government has put in place the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) to ensure

that agricultural producers have *information* and *guidance* to *enable* them produce, efficiently, effectively and profitably.

The participants were told that fisheries is one of the sub-sectors of agriculture which contributes to the PMA and the national strategy of poverty *eradication* by providing food, employment, income and export earnings. He therefore urged them to develop mechanisms to ensure that fish production is increased and sustained.

The Minister noted that Lake Victoria is currently the most important source of fish in Uganda. He observed that there has been poor flow of information from researchers to managers and fisher folk and was pleased to learn that the workshop specifically aimed at providing fisher folks and service providers in the fisheries sector with information for sustaining and increasing fisheries production and utilisation and he commended FIRRI for this effort. The Minister requested the participants to note that inadequate application of research results has been identified as a constraint to fisheries and urged the fisher folk to work together with researchers to put the results into practice.

He made it clear to the participants that under the decentralisation mode; management of fisheries is vested to the Districts. He advised that there is need to have a system, which will ensure co-ordinated management of the lake by the riparian districts. The participants were reminded that in the PMA, the focus of actions will be at the sub-counties and this should be born in mind when developing a management system for the lake. He therefore urged the fisheries officers to utilise the opportunity to gather information and share it with their colleagues in the field.

The Minister took the opportunity to thank NARO/FIRRI for organising the workshop and thanked all the participants for taking time off their busy schedules to come and attend the workshop. He wished everybody fruitful deliberations and looked forward to receiving the workshop report. The Minister finally declared the workshop open.